

## ABSTRACT

An encryption method that is largely transparent to a user is accomplished by intercepting a change document or open document command, carrying out an

5 encryption or decryption process, and then completing the command on an encrypted or decrypted file. The encryption method can be used in a wide variety of environments, such as an individual computer program, a database or electronic messaging over the Internet. The encryption method can select from a plurality of encryption algorithms. The encryption method can also allow just a portion of a document to be encrypted,  
10 placed in a container, and then be represented by an object linking and embedding ("OLE") container object or other representation supported by the file.

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